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well-known classic which appeared in 1865. It is not improbable that his remarks relative to editorial revision will strike a responsive note in the soul of other writers, and possibly of certain editors as well. At any rate, my friend, the late W. J. C. Miller, to whom it was written, laughed over it when he gave it to me, many years ago.

The letter is as follows:

Ch. Ch. Oxford.
Feb. 21/91

Dear Sir,

I have carefully examined "The Foundations of Geometry" by E. T. Dixon, published by Deighton, Bell, & Co., Cambridge, and would be glad to send you a short notice of it, if you would be at all likely to print it. You would be free to reject it, of course; & also to abridge it, if you thought fit: the only condition I make is that no word shall be *altered*, or *added*. Also you would be free to put my name to it, or not, as you thought best—The latter would be the best, in my own opinion. I think the notice would have more weight, & get more attention, as an unsigned 'notice' than as a signed letter.

Kindly tell me whether to send it or not. I enclose a card for your reply.

Truly yours,

C. L. DODGSON.

The Mathematical Editor of
"The Educational Times."

P.S. The book is on the "direction" theory, and involves, I believe, the same logical fallacy as lies at the root of Wilson's treatise.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

REVIEWS.

Geschichte der Elementar-Mathematik in systematischer Darstellung mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Fachwörter. Von J. TROPFKE. Erster Band, Rechnen. Zweite, verbesserte und sehr vermehrte Auflage. Berlin and Leipzig, Vereinigung Wissenschaftlicher Verleger, 1921. 8vo. 7 + 177 pages. Price, to Germans, bound, 46 marks.

The first edition of Tropfke's history, in two volumes, 1902–1903, made a notable contribution to the subject by its clarity of statement, and wealth of exact references to sources. The two parts of the first volume were devoted to "Das Rechnen" (pp. 1–122) and "Die Algebra" (pp. 123–332). The twelve parts of the second volume (496 pages) dealt with geometry, logarithms, plane and spherical trigonometry, spherical geometry, stereometry, series, compound interest, partial fractions, analytic geometry, conic sections, maxima and minima, combinatory analysis and theory of probability.

But the numerous discoveries of the past twenty years have rendered many of the statements of this work inaccurate and otherwise inadequate. A thorough revision was therefore very much to be desired. The previous two-volume edition, costing 22 marks, is to be expanded somewhat and published in seven volumes, costing 322 marks—if the cost of the volumes is to be uniform: I, Das Rechnen; II, General arithmetic; III, Proportion and equations; IV, Geometry; V, Trigonometry and spherics; VI, Analysis; VII, Name and subject indexes.

The first volume of the new edition covers the first 120 pages of the old edition; there is thus an increase in the number of pages of more than 45 per cent. The expansions are mainly in connection with footnotes, more than doubled in number, and with the sections on "Numbers in general" and "Integers." The treatment of perfect numbers in this latter-named section would have been vastly improved if due account had been taken of the comprehensive survey in Dickson's *History of the Theory of Numbers*, volume 1, 1919, (see 1921, 140-141). Tropicke gives no reference to results obtained regarding odd perfect numbers, and the twelve known perfect numbers are, therefore, without indicated warrant called the *first* twelve numbers of this type.

It is incorrectly stated, on page 26, that the first printed work to have its pages numbered with Arabic numerals was a certain work of Petrarch published in 1471. In the Annmary Brown Memorial of Providence, R. I., is a copy of a work by Werner Rolewinck published in 1470, and with pages so numbered (see 1921, 423).

As a whole, this first volume of the new edition offers, at present, the most satisfactory treatment of its kind in the field discussed, and is a great improvement on the corresponding part of the first edition. There is no change in the general plan of the work. That the author has had the benefit of coöperative assistance on the part of G. Eneström and H. Wieleitner tends to fortify the feeling of the reader that down to the smallest detail great care has been exercised to make exact statements.

The Vereinigung wissenschaftlicher Verleger has, for some time, pursued a campaign of extortion so far as America is concerned, by charging for their books more than five times the published prices. For a bound copy of the book under review \$2.30 are demanded. It is to be hoped that such action will be suitably resented.

August, 1921.

R. C. ARCHIBALD.

Technical and Scientific Serials in the Libraries of Providence, 1920. Compiled by the various libraries and edited by F. K. W. DRURY. Providence, R. I., 1921. Royal 8vo. 9 + 63 pp. Price 60 cents.

This publication lists about 2500 titles of serials (as defined by the American Library Association) in mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, botany, and geology, as well as in the mechanic and useful arts, engineering, trades, medicine and the fine arts. "The list looks forward not simply to a complete list of *all* serials in the libraries of Providence or of the State, but to a complete sectional union list for New England and the East. Such a list is under way in the North Central states; this list is a contribution toward one on the Atlantic seaboard. With this in mind the national abbreviations for the libraries have been used rather than symbols purely local."

The publication is not above criticism in connection with the mathematical titles. A few selected indications of this must suffice. The two entries for this